AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of Claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) In a digital television receiving system, a method of providing bitstream information, said method comprising:

accessing a digital television bit-stream;

accessing a command requesting a table describing information in said digital television bit-stream, said command comprising:

a plurality of attribute fields comprising:

a table field for specifying a table identifier; and

a multi-purpose field for specifying ~~one~~ a select attribute ~~of a plurality of attributes~~ related to a requested table; and

a flag field for ~~specifying which one of the~~ identifying said select attribute from a plurality of attributes held by said multi-purpose field ~~holds~~;

determining if said flag field indicates a rating region table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said rating region table;

determining if said flag field indicates an event information table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said event information table; and

determining if said flag field indicates an extended text table is requested, and if so, using information in said multi-purpose field to provide said extended text table.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising setting a flag indicating said table field is valid.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 24, further comprising setting a value in said table field.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

setting said flag field to specify which one of the plurality of attributes said multi-purpose field holds.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 23, wherein said command is a direct select data command.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 23, wherein said multi-purpose field is for specifying an attribute for one of a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 23, wherein said table identifier is able operable to specify at least one of a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

30.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~1~~ 23, wherein said <u>plurality of</u> attribute ~~field relates~~ <u>fields relate</u> to <u>at least</u> one of ~~a source identification~~ programming information, ~~a rating region~~ <u>rating information related to at least one geographic region</u>, and an extended text message <u>related to said bit-stream</u>.

31.   (New) The method of Claim 23 further comprising:

if said flag field indicates a table identification is requested, providing a table identified by said table identifier in said table field.

32.   (New) An electronic system comprising:

a first device for accessing a multimedia bit stream;

a second device coupled to said first device and for generating a command requesting a table describing information in said multimedia bit stream, said command comprising:

a plurality of attribute fields comprising:

a table field for specifying a table identifier; and

a multi-purpose field for specifying a select attribute related to a requested table; and

a flag field for identifying said select attribute from a plurality of attributes held by said multi-purpose field; and

in response to receiving said command, wherein said first device is operable to:

determine if said flag field indicates a rating region table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said rating region table;

determine if said flag field indicates an event information table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said event information table; and

determine if said flag field indicates an extended text table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said extended text table.

33. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said first device comprises a tuner for receiving and decoding a digital television signal.

34. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said second device comprises a controller for issuing commands to said first device and processing information received from said first device.

35. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said second device is operable to set a flag indicating said table field is valid.

36. (New) The electronic system of Claim 35, wherein said second device is further operable to set a value in said table field.

37. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said first device is further operable to provide a table identified by said table identifier in said table field if said flag field indicates a table identification is requested.

38. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said second device is further operable to set said flag field to specify which one of the plurality of attributes said multi-purpose field holds.

39. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said command is a direct select data command.

40. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said multi-purpose field is for specifying an attribute for one of a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

41. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said table identifier is operable to specify at least one of a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

42. (New) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said plurality of attribute fields relate to at least one of programming information, rating information related to at least one geographic region, and an extended text message related to said bit stream.

43. (New) A data structure for identifying requested information from a multimedia bit stream, said data structure comprising:

a flag field for specifying an information type of said requested information, said information type comprising at least one of programming information, rating information related to at least one geographic region, and extended text messages related to said bit stream; and

at least one attribute field for specifying an attribute of said requested information, said attribute identified by said information type from among a plurality of attributes associated with said attribute field, wherein each of said

plurality of attributes is associated with a different type of information of said multimedia bit stream; and

wherein said information type and attribute of said requested information identify a table of said multimedia bit stream comprising said requested information.

44.   (New) The data structure of Claim 43, wherein said table comprises at least one of a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

45.   (New) The data structure of Claim 43, wherein said at least one attribute field further comprises a table field for specifying a table identifier.

46.   (New) The data structure of Claim 45, wherein said table identifier is operable to specify at least one of a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.